

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

DPW-01 IO-12 EUR-25 OMB-01 /118 R

DRAFTED BY EA/ P; STAFF: PP

3/27/73 EXT 22538

APPROVED BY EA/ P: AHROSEN

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R 272204 Z MAR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USDEL FRANCE RUHQHQA

UNCLAS STATE 056292

E. O. 11652

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: MARCH 27 INDOCHINA PRESS SUMMARY

1. ALL PAPERS FEATURE BREAK IN DEADLOCK FOLLOWING PL ANNOUNCEMENT IT READY TO RELEASE 9 AMERICANS. THURSDAY WITHDRAWAL OF REMAINING US TROOPS WILL LEAVE ONLY ATTACHES AND MARINE GUARDS. 825 IN US JMC DEL MAY DEPART EARLY AS FRIDAY. US SAIGON SOURCE SAYS PRG DEMAND THAT MSGS LEAVE SVN IS " NON- ISSUE," WHICH WASN' T EVEN DISCUSSED AT JMC MEETING. ZIEGLER SAYS US HAS NO REASON BELIEVE ANY MORE US PRISONERS HELD ANYWHERE IN INDOCHINA AND DRAWS ATTENTION TO AGREED ARRANGEMENTS UNDER WHICH US AND COMMUNISTS WILL SEARCH FOR MIA. (CBS' CRONKITE REPORTED ON MONDAY EVENING NEWS FROM VIENTIANE THAT 100 OF OVER 300 US MIA IN LAOS MAY WELL BE ALIVE, AND KEY TO THEIR FATE IS IN PL HANDS).

2. PAPERS ALSO FEATURE DZU RELEASE. AP INTERPRETS IT UNCLASSIFIED

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AS PART OF GVN EFFORT TO IMPROVE IMAGE IN ADVANCE THIEU' S
US VISIT. 7 SMALL PARTIES MEET THIEU' S POLITICAL
PARTIES REFORM DECREE DEADLINE AND JOIN TOGETHER IN NEW
SOCIALIST DEMOCRATIC PARTY, NOT EXPECTED BE STRONGLY
ANTIGOVERNMENT.

3. SPOKESMAN BRAY SAYS REPORT THAT US MISLED CANADA
OVER ICCS " TOTALLY WITHOUT FOUNDATION." AFP REPORTS
FROM OTTAWA THAT SHARP AGOP OVERSEAS AND MILITARY POLICIES. WHEN
JOINED BY " HIGH RANKING" ARMY OFFICER THEY REPEATED CRITICISM; 3
OR 4 WERE ARRESTED AND REST SEVERELY REPRIMANDED.

3. LUZ CUNHA' S STATEMENT LEAVES ROOM FOR FURTHER SPECULATION.
APPEARS TO CONTAIN UNMISTAKABLY BLUNT WARNING NOT ONLY TO HIS
TROOPS
BUT ALSO TO CIVLIAN AUTHORITIES IN LISBON TO CRUSH DOMESTIC
TERRORISM. IF THIS HIS PURPOSE, ON WHOSE BEHALF WAS HE SPEAKING?
IT ALSO CURIOUS THAT LUZ CUNHA WOULD CONSIDER IT USEFUL TO ADD HIS
DEFINITION OF SELF- DETERMINATION TO VARIOUS OTHER PORTUGUESE
FORMULATIONS, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ELECTORAL EXCERSIDE (WHICH
SUPPOSEDLY WAS ANOTHE FORM OF SELF- DETERMINATION).

4. WHATEVER OTHER PURPOSES LUZ CUNHA MAY HAVE HAD, PUBLICITY
ATTENDING HIS STATEMENT (LEAD ITEM FRONT PAGE, PLUS CENTER SPREAD)
WILL TEND WITHOUT SUBTLETY TO REMIND GOVGEN AND CIVILIAN ELEMENTS
OF CINC' S PRESENCE AND AUTHORITY. THIS EFFECT HIGHTENED BY FACT
THIS IS LUZ CUNHAS' S FIRST ON STATE PERFORMANCE (HERETOFORE HE
HAS AVOIDED SPOTLIGHT), AND TIMED FOLLOWING CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC
ATTENTION TO GOVGEN' S TRAVELS AND STATEMENTS ALL OVER ANGOLA, AND
ELECTION ITSELF.
BRIGGS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE056292
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730340/aaaaijnp.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: collinp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14-Nov-2001 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <01-Feb-2002 by collinp0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980105
Subject: MARCH 27 INDOCHINA PRESS SUMMARY
TAGS: PFOR, US, XC
To: BANGKOK
FRANCE
PHNOM PENH
SAIGON
VIENTIANE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

